



Massachusetts Ocean Planning Process

Ocean Advisory Commission

August 13, 2008

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History

- Ocean Management Task Force established in 2003
- Issued *Waves of Change* report in 2004
- Key recommendation is to develop a “new, comprehensive Ocean Resources Management Act”
- CORMA filed in 2005

History

- Coastal Zone Management developed several products to support ocean management:
 - Seafloor mapping (ongoing)
 - Assessment of Coastal and Marine Economies
 - Existing and Proposed Offshore Energy Facilities

History

- Massachusetts Ocean Partnership created in 2006
- Membership includes government, marine-dependent industry, scientists, and conservation and education organizers
- Hosted by UMASS Boston; operates with funding from Moore Foundation to provide technical resources for ocean planning
- EEA/MOP MOU to guide contracts for technical services

Oceans Act of 2008

- Directs Secretary of EEA to develop an integrated ocean management plan
- Final plan promulgated by December 31, 2009; formal public hearings in 4 coastal regions required at least 6 months prior
- EEA deadline of June 30, 2009 for draft plan
- Requires that the EEA develop and implement a public outreach and information program

Oceans Act of 2008

- Establishes the Ocean Advisory Commission (Commission) to assist the Secretary and make recommendations regarding management and development of the plan
- Establishes the Ocean Science Advisory Council (Council) to assist the Secretary in creating a baseline assessment and obtaining scientific information

Oceans Act of 2008

- Set forth the Commonwealth's goals, siting priorities, and standards for proper stewardship of its ocean waters held in trust for the benefit of the public
- Coordinates uses that include international, federal, state and local jurisdictions

Oceans Act of 2008

- Foster sustainable uses that capitalize on economic opportunity without significant detriment to the ecology or natural beauty of the ocean
- Identify appropriate locations and performance standards for activities, uses, and facilities allowed under the Ocean Sanctuaries Act

Oceans Act of 2008

- Establishes the Ocean Resources and Waterways Trust Fund to be funded by development mitigation fees and other sources to:
 - Offset environmental damages or navigational impacts of development
 - Protect and restore ocean ecosystem

Oceans Act of 2008

- Requires all state agencies to consult the plan prior to issuing approvals
- All state approvals must be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the plan
- Directs that the plan be incorporated in the Coastal Zone Management Plan

Oceans Act of 2008

- Amends the Ocean Sanctuaries Act to allow development of renewable energy facilities, and requires that renewable energy facilities must be of “appropriate scale” and otherwise consistent with the plan

Oceans Act of 2008

- Directs that the Division of Marine Fisheries shall have sole responsibility for developing and implementing any fisheries management plans or fisheries regulations
- Directs that commercial and recreational fishing shall be allowable uses, subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Division of Marine Fisheries.

Oceans Act of 2008

- Requires that plan elements which have an impact on fishing shall minimize negative economic impacts and be reviewed by the Division.
- Directs that fisheries management be integrated, to the maximum extent practicable, with an ocean management plan.

Planning Process

- 2 Products:

1. Framework plan with a spatial component (maps) and defined management measures (rules or standards);
2. Defined planning, science, and policy process for ongoing, dynamic plan evolution. Act requires review of ocean management plan, its baseline assessment and the enforceable provisions of relevant statutes and regulations at least once every 5 years.

Planning Process

- 4 step process

1. Assemble data, comment and planning tools: 180 days
2. Develop a working plan: 90 days
3. Review and modify plan: 60 days
4. Formal public hearings, legislative review, promulgation: 180 days

Data, Comment and Planning Tools

- State agency workgroups:
 - Habitat
 - Commercial and recreational fishing
 - Renewable energy
 - Navigation and Infrastructure
 - Sediment management
 - Social, cultural and historic

Data, Comment and Planning Tools

- Workgroups have developed data reports that identify data currently available and data that requires technical work to make it useful in CZM's MA Ocean Resource Information System (MORIS)
- Each workgroup will be expanded to include cross-section of interests who will review and recommend additional or modified data

Data, Comment and Planning Tools

- The Science Advisory Council will review and recommend additional or modified data to create working baseline assessment
- EEA will contract with technical consultants through MOP to process data
- Council will identify 'big picture' questions and data needed to address them

Data, Comment and Planning Tools

- Our intent is to ensure broad-based, on-going public participation in developing the plan
- EEA will convene coast-wide and inland public meetings, beginning in September, to gather public and stakeholder comment
- EEA will also solicit comment through web networks, local and regional media, and local and regional workshops

Data, Comment and Planning Tools

- Commission members will be asked to participate in public meetings
- EEA will contract with technical consultants through MOP to catalogue and evaluate comments and identify general concerns and specific issues the public would like to see addressed
- Analysis of comment will be provided to the Commission to assist in developing the planning principles

Data, Comment and Planning Tools

- EEA will contract with technical consultants through MOP to review nat'l and internt'l planning models and present options to EEA, Commission and Council
- Options will be reviewed for their utility in MA, considering:
 - Planning principles
 - Adequacy of existing data
 - Directives of the Act

Data, Comment and Planning Tools

- Review of options will also inform how we work with stakeholders in analysis of compatibility/conflict among uses and between uses and resources
- EEA will present plan framework options to the Commission and Council for review and comment
- EEA will incorporate comments and identify the plan framework of most utility in MA

Data, Comment and Planning Tools

- Task: Assemble data, comment and planning tools
- Schedule: July – January
- Product: Public and stakeholder issues identified and planning principles completed, baseline data and assessment completed, review of plan framework alternatives completed

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Develop a Working Plan

- EEA will use the planning principles, public and stakeholder comment, and the selected plan framework as the basis of the plan
- EEA will overlay the ocean data; result will identify areas of compatibility/conflict among uses and between uses and resources that need to be resolved

Develop a Working Plan

- EEA will work through areas of conflict with stakeholders in a process to be determined, with participation of the Commission and Council
- Through 'hands-on' evaluation with stakeholders of what alternative planning decisions tell us, EEA will develop working draft plan

Develop a Working Plan

- Task: Develop a Working Plan
- Schedule: February - April
- Product: A working draft plan that is consistent with the planning principles and public comment, addresses conflict among uses and between uses and resources and reflects stakeholder input

Review and Modify Plan

- The working draft plan will be presented for Commission, Council, and broad-based public review and discussion
- First step was to ask for public input, now will want to go back to the public to get feedback on how we used it
- Hands-on public discussion prior to formal 'sit and listen' public hearings to follow
- EEA will incorporate comment and modify the draft plan as appropriate

Review and Modify Plan

- Task: Review and modify plan
- Schedule: May - June
- Product: A final draft plan for presentation at formal public hearings pursuant to the Act

Formal Review

- Task: Formal public hearings, legislative review, promulgation pursuant to the Act
- Schedule: July - December
- Product: Promulgated Ocean Plan

Charge to the Commission

- Coordinate development of planning principles
- Review results of public input processes
- Review plan framework alternatives
 - Ensure that public and stakeholder issues will be addressed
 - Ensure that the plan will be responsive to planning principles
- Review draft plan to ensure that public input and planning principles are appropriately reflected

Charge to the Commission

Issues EEA will ask the OAC for feedback on include but are not limited to:

- Proposed planning process
- Level of detail of the first plan
- How to have OAC work informed by science advisory committee output

The background is a solid blue gradient with a subtle, wavy texture that resembles water ripples. A faint, lighter blue horizontal band is visible near the top, suggesting a horizon or a layer of clouds. The overall effect is a calm, aquatic-themed backdrop.

Thank you